Dolphins Belong in the Wild

Ilona Dee

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Ilona Dee

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well-being and autonomy and is as close as possible to their natural habitat.

including the

also works as a photo-journalist and blogger for several publications,

mammals for over thirty years. She is President and Co-founder of the

There are many other reasons why keeping these animals in captivity is

faulty especially considering that the endangered species are generally not

programs are for conservation motives. Removing dolphins from of their

behavior that shows little if anything of these animals' everyday life.

This is not an educational experience about. Jumping and splashing on command or catching a Ash from the

opinion here rests on one's deAnition of educational value. Just think about

The most common claim of many delphinaria is that they provide great

Education & Conservation

beings with diverse personalities. Anyone who has witnessed the

Dolphins, like us, have a limbic system and are able to experience a broad

conAned. Let's not forget that dolphins also die smiling!

frolicking in the sea. We tend to anthropomorphize them, projecting our

own attributes on them. But what we think is the blissful face of a dolphin

animal world, almost any animal may be considered smart

There is no doubt that intelligence is diWcult to deAne and when we look

ratios.

would come just after us, scoring even better than their great ape cousins.

information about who these animals really are in the wild and what they

animal) in a restricted environment may have been more acceptable years

Keeping cetaceans (and personally I would stretch this to include any

years. I've built a career following their everyday movements and observing

emotions.

dorsal An notches, but also for their cognitive abilities, personalities and

came to recognize them as single individuals, not solely for their unique

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Keep in mind that we are an allegedly intelligent and caring species with

learned of their needs, not only for space but also for companionship. And I

came to recognize them as single individuals, not solely for their unique

Mindreading: Animals, Hirons, Thalidomide Babies and

Investor

When Science Fiction Enters Reality | Data Driven

Dolphins are large-brained, cognitive animals

neocortex as compared to other species, including humans, and a

morphological investigations on cetaceans. Neuroanatomical studies of

into the animal world, almost any animal may be considered smart

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brain complexity, social complexity, and ecological complexity are

depending on what deAnition of intelligence we decide to apply. I can make

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